

Message Text

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PAGE 01 OTTAWA 00489 052142Z

64

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SAJ-01 ACDA-10 ARA-10 AF-06 TRSE-00

EURE-00 /081 W

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O 052058Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8744

INFO USMISSION NATO IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS OTTAWA 489

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, NATO, CA, CU

SUBJ: OTTAWA PRESS CONFERENCE OF NATO SYG LUNS

FOLLOWING IS PRESS REPORT (TORONTO GLOBE AND MAIL) OF
NATO SYG LUNS' PRESS CONFERENCE IN OTTAWA FEBRUARY 5:

BEGIN QUOTE: PRIME MINISTER PIERRE TRUDEAU MAY HAVE
BEEN TAKEN IN A BIT BY CUBAN PREMIER FIDEL CASTRO,
ALSO MAY HAVE DONE SOME GOOD WITH HIS ADVICE ON THE
INAPPROPRIATENESS OF CUBA'S SENDING TROOPS TO ANGOLA,
NATO SECRETARY-GENERAL JOSEPH LUNS SUGGESTED AT A PRESS
CONFERENCE HERE YESTERDAY.

HE SAID HE HAD BEEN TOLD, AT AN EARLIER MEETING
WITH MR. TRUDEAU, ABOUT MR.CASTRO'S EXPLANATION TO
MR. TRUDEAU FOR CUBA'S INVOLVEMENT IN ANGOLA.

HE SAID HE FOUND THE EXPLANATION "INTRIGUING," BUT
WENT ON TO SUGGEST EVER SO SUBTLY THAT MR. TRUDEAU MAY
HAVE BEEN A BIT NAIVE ON THE MATTER.

MR. TRUDEAU SAID IN CUBA THAT HE WAS CONVINCED
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UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 OTTAWA 00489 052142Z

THAT THE CUBAN INTERVENTION HAD BEEN UNDERTAKEN

AFTER A GREAT DEAL OF THOUGHT AND FEELING.

HE ALSO SAID HE HAD COME AWAY FROM HIS TALKS
IN CUBA WITH A BETTER ASSESSMENT OF THE AFRICAN
SITUATION FROM MR. CASTRO'S SOCIALIST POINT OF VIEW.

MR. LUNS SAID HE WAS SURE MR. TRUDEAU HAD
LISTENED CAREFULLY TO PREMIER CASTRO, BUT HE HAS
FOUND IN HIS 25 YEARS IN DIPLOMACY THAT "WHAT
POLITICAL LEADERS SAY AND WHAT THEY THINK OR WHAT
REALLY IS BEHIND WHAT THEY SAY IS SOMETIMES DIFFERENT."

EARLIER IN THE PRESS CONFERENCE, IN RESPONSE TO
ANOTHER QUESTION ABOUT MR. TRUDEAU, CUBA AND ANGOLA,
MR. LUNS WAS CAREFUL TO PREFACE HIS REMARKS WITH THE
QUALIFICATION THAT NATO IS NOT A SUPERNATIONAL BODY
THAT OVERRIDES INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS' FOREIGN POLICY.
HE IS NATO'S TOP CIVIL SERVANT.

THE QUESTIONERS SHOULDN'T DISCOUNT THE POSSIBILITY
THAT MR. TRUDEAU'S DISCUSSIONS WITH MR. CASTRO MIGHT
HAVE DONE SOME GOOD, HE SAID.

HE HAD KNOWN MR. TRUDEAU FOR A LONG TIME AND KNEW
THAT HE EXPRESSED HIS VIEWS VERY CLEARLY. "HE MAY
HAVE IMPRESSED SOME HOME THRUTS ON CASTRO. KEEP AN
OPEN MIND IS MY ADVICE TO YOU".

MR. LUNS DECLINED TO BE DRAWN INTO A COMPARISON
OF CANADA'S NATO EFFORTS WITH THOSE OF OTHER MEMBERS
OF THE ALLIANCE, BUT SAID THAT RECENT DECISIONS TO
PURCHASE NEW TANKS AND PATROL AIRCRAFT AND INCREASE
DEFENCE SPENDING HAD AN IMPACT ON THE OTHER MEMBERS.

"THEY THINK YOU ARE DOING YOUR PART FAR MORE NOW
THAN A WHILE AGO".

CANADA'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE DEFENCE OF EUROPE IS
NOT PHILANTHROPY, MR. LUNS SAID. IF CANADA BELIEVED
THAT IT SHOULD 'CLEAR OUT TODAY'.

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PAGE 03 OTTAWA 00489 052142Z

IF EUROPE IS THREATENED, CANADA IS ALSO. 'WE HANG
TOGETHER OR WE WILL BE HANGED SEPARATELY'.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INTERVENTION, PRESS CONFERENCES, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976OTTAWA00489
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760044-0701
From: OTTAWA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760279/aaaacrhf.tel
Line Count: 111
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: blochd0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 JUN 2004 by BrownAM>; APPROVED <06 DEC 2004 by blochd0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: OTTAWA PRESS CONFERENCE OF NATO SYG LUNS FOLLOWING IS PRESS REPORT (TORONTO GLOBE AND MAIL) OF
TAGS: PFOR, CA, CU, AO, NATO, (LUNS, JOSEPH M A H), (TRUDEAU, PIERRE-ELLIOTT)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006